

9 FAM PART IV Appendix C, GHANA

(TL:VISA-302; 08-06-2001)

RECIPROCITY

(TL:VISA-301; 07-30-2001)

Class	Fee	No. Applications	Validity
A-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
A-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
A-3 [1]	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
B-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
B-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
B-1/B-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
C-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
C-1/D	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
C-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
C-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
D	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
E-1 [2]	NO TREATY	N/A	N/A
E-2 [2]	NO TREATY	N/A	N/A
F-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	48 MONTHS
F-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	48 MONTHS
G-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-5 [1]	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
H-1B	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-1C	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-2A	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-2B	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
I	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
J-1 [4]	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
J-2 [4]	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
K-1	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
K-2	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
K-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
K-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
L-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
L-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
M-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
M-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
N-8	NONE	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
N-9	NONE	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
NATO 1-7	N/A	N/A	N/A
O-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
O-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
O-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]

P-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	6 MONTHS [3]
P-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	6 MONTHS [3]
P-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
Q-1 [6]	NONE	MULTIPLE	15 MONTHS [3]
R-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
R-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
S-5 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
S-6 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
S-7 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
TD [5]	N/A	N/A	N/A
V-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
V-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS [8]
V-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS [8]

SPECIAL CLEARANCE AND ISSUANCE PROCEDURES

(TL:VISA-1121; 07-27-1990)

All requests for police checks must be accompanied by a completed Form FD-258 (Fingerprint Chart).

DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

Police Record

(TL:VISA-1123; 12-03-1990)

Unavailable.

Prison Records

(TL:VISA-180; 10-15-1998)

Available. In the case of a person who has been incarcerated, a prison record may be obtained from the Director of Prisons, P.O. Bos 129, Accra. There may be a fee for this service. Processing time varies, depending on the length of the sentence, and how long ago and in what prison the sentence was served.

Military Record

(TL:VISA-180; 10-15-1998)

Available. In the case of a person who has served in the Gold Coast or Ghana Armed Forces, a military record may be obtained from the Director of Personnel Administration, Ministry of Defense, Burma Camp, Accra, Ghana.

Birth Certificate

(TL:VISA-180; 10-15-1998)

Available. Persons over 18 years of age must apply in person at the appropriate Registrar's Office. Records of registrations more than one year old are deposited with the Office of the Registrar of Births and Deaths for Ghana, C/O Ministry of Local Government, P.O. Box M.270, Accra, Ghana. If the applicant resides outside of Ghana, the person applying must present a written authorization from the individual whose birth certificate is being requested. Persons under 18 years of age must have their parent or guardian obtain the certificate. There may be a fee for this service.

NOTE: The majority of registrations are not made at the time of birth, and often no registration is made until an individual requires a birth certificate for immigration purposes. Registrations not made within one year of an individual's birth are not reliable evidence of relationship, since registration, including late registration, may often be accomplished upon demand, with little or no supporting documentation required.

Ghanaian authorities issue two documents as evidence of birth. A "Birth Certificate" is provided to the person making registration at the time of registration. This document which bears no seal, may be white, light gray, ledger green, or light blue, and, in recent years, has often been forged. The "Certified Copy of Entry in the Register of Births," also called "Certified True Copy of Entry in the Register of Birth," is provided to persons who request birth documentation at some time after the initial registration. This document, which is either white or pink, is approximately 6-1/2 inches by 18 inches and bears the raised seal of the Registrar of Births and Deaths for Ghana. Persons registered before March 1957 received a "Certificate of Registration of Birth" at the time of registration. This document is approximately 5 inches square and was issued by the Government of the Gold Coast Colony. It bears no raised seal.

Secondary Evidence: Because of the prevalence of late registrations, secondary evidence of birth is often required. Common secondary evidence includes midwife's certificates of birth, weight cards or welfare centre cards, and baptismal certificates. Recent affidavits by relatives or friends are not reliable.

Illegitimacy: Ghanaian birth documents do not indicate the marital status of the parents, and the appearance of a man's name on a birth document should not be taken as prima facie evidence of legitimate birth or of subsequent legitimation.

Death Certificate

(TL:VISA-180; 10-15-1998)

Available. A certified true copy of an entry in the Register of Deaths may be obtained from the appropriate Registrar's Office. Records more than one year old are deposited with the Office of the Registrar of Births and Deaths for Ghana, C/O Ministry of Local Government, P O. Box M.270, Accra, Ghana. There is a fee for this service.

Marriage Certificate

(TL:VISA-180; 10-15-1998)

Available for marriages entered into under civil law from the Principal Registrar of Marriages, C/O Registrar General's Office, P.O. Box 118, Accra, Ghana. There is a fee for this service. Most marriages are performed under customary law, and written records are kept only if the couple chooses to register the marriage with the local council. Persons married under customary law who subsequently wish to marry under civil law must obtain a civil marriage certificate which reflects the words "married under native customary law" in the space provided for "condition." Polygamous marriage is permissible under the customary law of some groups, but not under civil law.

Divorce Certificate

(TL:VISA-180; 10-15-1998)

Available. Certificates for the dissolution of a civil marriage may be obtained from the court that granted the divorce. Proper documentation of the dissolution of a customary marriage is a decree, issued by a high court, circuit court or district court under the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1971 (Act 367), Section 41(2), stating that the marriage in question was dissolved in accordance with customary law. Affidavits or "statutory declarations" attesting to a divorce under customary law, even when duly sworn, do not constitute proper documentation of the dissolution of a Ghanaian customary marriage.

Passports: Information on Travel Documents

(TL:VISA-237; 02-20-2001)

A **Certificate of Identity** is being issued to residents of Ghana until citizenship status is determined. The document bears a validity date and ceases to be valid if the bearer obtains a national passport. A Certificate of Commonwealth Citizenship and Laissez-Passer is issued to citizens of the Commonwealth who are residents of Ghana and who are not in possession of their own national travel document. The Certificate meets the passport requirements of Section 101(a)(30) of the Act and is valid for a period of one year in the first instance and may be renewed as circumstances demand.

Diplomatic Passports Revoked: The new Government of Ghana announced on January 23, 2001, that all diplomatic and service passports issued to former ministers, parliamentarians, and government functionaries of the past government are invalid. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared the revocation retroactive to January 7, 2001, the day when the new government assumed office.

VISA ISSUING POST

(TL:VISA-302; 08-06-2001)

Accra (E) All Categories

Telephone: (233-21) 776-601 or (233-21) 776-602

GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVICED

(TL:VISA-1121; 07-27-1990)

All of Ghana.